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Reply to the Office Action dated September 17, 2004  
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-7, 14, 15, and 17-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 14 and cancel claims 8 and 10-13.

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1 and 3-7 are allowed, and that claims 14, 15 and 17-21 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 8, 10-15 and 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicant has canceled claim 8 and has amended claim 14 to correct the informality noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 8 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mandai et al. (US Patent 5,227,739).

Applicant has canceled claims 8 and 10-13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 8 and 10-13 over Mandai et al. is moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-7, 14, 15 and 17-21 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

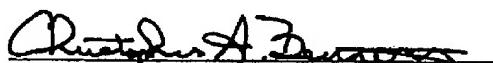
To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a One-month extension of time, extending to January 17, 2005, the period for response to the Office Action dated September 17, 2004.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 13, 2005

  
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Attorneys for Applicants

Joseph R. Keating  
Registration No. 37,368

Christopher A. Bennett  
Registration No. 46,710

**KEATING & BENNETT LLP**  
10400 Eaton Place, Suite 312  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Telephone: (703) 385-5200  
Facsimile: (703) 385-5080